

NOVEMBER 29, 2015
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking+
faith
home

The words of Jesus will always be with us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man
Monday	Daniel 7:13-14	A vision of the Son of Man
Tuesday	Joel 3:14-18	The day of the Lord is near
Wednesday	Micah 4:1-7	The Lord's coming reign of peace
Thursday	Luke 17:22-37	The day of the Son of Man
Friday	Romans 13:11-14	Our salvation is near
Saturday	Psalms 90	Prayer for life from God
Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

(Jesus said) "The sky and the earth won't last forever, but my words will."

Luke 21:33 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you I place my trust, O God. Amen. (Psalm 25:1-2)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless our home with hope this Advent. As we enjoy your gifts, make us ready for your coming. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength in your heart, so that you are ready when Jesus comes again. Amen. (1 Thessalonians 3:13)



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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Share about something you really look forward to.
- Jesus tells us that one day he will come again in glory. How do we care for others as we await Christ's return? (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13)

DEVOTIONS

The Advent Wreath is a great home devotional tool. Make a wreath from greens, wire, or Styrofoam and place four purple or blue candles with a white candle in the center. Light one candle during the first week of Advent, another during the second week and so on. On Christmas Day, light the white candle in celebration of the birth of Christ.

Use this simple liturgy for lighting your first Advent candle this week:

Leader: The prophet Isaiah said that Jesus would be the hope of the nations. Our first Advent candle is the candle of hope. As we light it, let us celebrate the hope that Jesus gives us. (Light the candle.)

All: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for giving us hope. Fill our home with hope this Advent. Amen.

SERVICE

Make some Christmas decorations using various craft materials (cardboard, colored paper, glue, glitter etc.). Give them away to neighbors and friends as a sign of Christmas cheer.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Have you set up and decorated your Christmas tree? When this is done, take some time for a Christmas Tree Blessing. Gather round the tree and use the following ritual.

Leader: This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful and of God's goodness. It stands in our home as a tree of light, a sign of Jesus' presence with us as the Light of the World. He was the shoot that grew from the stump of Jesse to become a branch that gives us shelter.

Reader: Jeremiah 33:15-16

All: God of all Creation, we thank you for this tree. Bless us as we gather around it. May it light up our hearts with your love, joy and peace, and may the gifts placed under it remind us of the great gift of your Son Jesus. Amen.

Finish the ritual with a "countdown" towards the lighting of your tree. Have each family member point out their favorite Christmas tree decoration.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org